THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation, a State Channelising Agency for Andhra Pradesh submitted proposals for artisans assistance for a total outlay of Rs. 230.02 crore out of which Rs. 101.54 crore was indicated as share of National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC). As the proposal was not conforming to the NBCFDC guidelines and it did not contain complete project details the SCA was advised to furnish the same. Besides the SCA had not furnished utilisation certificate in respect of loans advanced to it earlier. Subsequently, the SCA revised its orginal proposal to a realistic level seeking loan assistance of Rs. 18.15 crores under the 'ADARNA' scheme. The NBCFDC has sanctioned and disbursed Rs. 17.38 crores to the SCA under 'ADARNA' scheme to benefit 104312 beneficiaries.

Beggars in the Country

3030. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beggars in the country-male, women and children-separately; and

(b) the rate of increase of beggars for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No nation-wide survey regarding number of child beggars in the country has been undertaken by the Ministry as such. However, according to a report of the Registrar General of India, the total number of beggars in 1991 in the country (except J&K) was 5,44,048 out of which, number of male beggars was 3,33,334 and that of female beggars was 2,10,714.

(b) The information is not maintained by the Ministry as the subject is dealth with by the States under their respective Anti-Beggary Laws.

Ongoing and New Schemes in Operation for NGOs

3031. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the ongoing and new Central schemes in operation for providing financial aid to NGOs and State Governments and relevant details thereof scheme-wise alongwith eligiblity conditions;

(b) whether Government have reviewed the performance of these schemes recently for the past year vis-a-vis preceding two years, scheme-wise and year-wise;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the significant achievements of Government during the last one year and the steps proposed during 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The details of the varios schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment under which financial assistance is given to State Government/ U.T. Administrations and N.G.Os. are avilable in the annual Report for 1997-98, copies of which have been placed on the Parliament Library. In addition, six new schemes have been launched during 1998-99, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. (*see* below).

(b) to (d) A review of all the schemes under implementation has been undertaken with a view to make them